



## Maryland Green School Awards Program In Baltimore County



**The Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education**

**Promoting an integrated approach to environmental education through recognition of  
*Maryland Green Schools* and *Maryland Green Centers***

### **What it is:**

Since 1999, the **Maryland Green School Awards Program**, administered by the Maryland Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education (MAEOE), has recognized Maryland public and private schools pre K-12 that:

- Use their school site and curricular instruction to prepare students to understand and act on current and future environmental challenges facing all Marylanders.
- Model environmental best management practices (BMPs) in building and landscape design, maintenance, and operation.
- Build and maintain partnerships with the local community to enhance environmental learning and to design and implement projects and programs that result in a healthier environment.

Nature centers and organizations that model conservation BMPs, support environmental education, champion the **Maryland Green School** concept, and provide assistance for potential and existing **Maryland Green Schools** may apply for recognition as a **MD Green Center**.

### **Who is eligible:**

- All Maryland schools pre K-12, public and private.
- All environmental centers providing high-level support for **Maryland Green Schools**.

**Who prepares the application:** A nomination committee composed of one or more representatives of *each* of the following groups: school (or center) staff, facility manager, students, parents, and community partners. List the names on the application *Cover Sheet*.

**What is required:** A school or center must describe and document activities accomplished over a 2 year period (ending on June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the application is submitted). Applications are available online at [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org). An online "intent to apply" form and a one-time application fee of \$25 is due in February of the year a school or center intends to apply.

Major components of the application include:

- Intent form and \$25 application fee
- A one-page cover sheet and a one-page concise summary
- A short description (one-page maximum) followed by documentation of the following requirements:
  - Integration of environmental issue instruction
  - Professional development for staff
  - Celebration
  - Demonstration of environmental best management practices (BMPs)
  - Sustained school (or center) community partnerships to enhance environmental learning

**When are applications accepted:** Applications are non-competitive and are accepted each year in the spring. Newly recognized **Maryland Green Schools** and **Maryland Green Centers** are announced in late spring. An award ceremony and reception are held in late May or June.

**What types of incentives and rewards are available:**

- **Maryland Green School** flag
- Statewide and local county/city recognition
- Visibility as a model for other schools and for the local neighborhood
- Gift baskets
- Free gift of a native MD tree or plant
- 1:1 match on future Tree-Mendous tree orders through MD DNR
- Books and resources for your class or school library
- Opportunity to present at the annual MAEOE conference
- Opportunity for waived conference fees at MAEOE
- **Maryland Green Centers:** State and local recognition, special awards, gift of native MD tree, Green School flag, and other gifts.
- Upon renewal of GS status: Statewide and local county/city recognition plaque, other awards and gifts. Opportunity for "Model MD Green School" status.

**When must a school/center re-apply:**

**Maryland Green School** and **Center** status is renewed every 4 years by submitting a short description and documenting ongoing **Green School** or **Green Center** activities. Following 2 re-certifications, schools and centers that sustain their operations have additional options. Applications and instructions for re-certification are available on the MAEOE website.

**What support is available to my school or center:**

Upcoming environmental education conferences, workshops and events provide support for **Maryland Green Schools** and **Centers**. Visit the [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org) webpage to see the latest opportunities and the date of the upcoming MAEOE conference.

**Local Baltimore County contacts for program support:**



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**Visit the MAEOE website:** [www.maeoe.org](http://www.maeoe.org)

MD Green Schools Program Coordinator: [greenschools@maeoe.org](mailto:greenschools@maeoe.org)

